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IN BANBURY

RAIL CHAOS AS LINE SHUT

Annabal Bagdi
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A LANDSLIP that forced Banbury's railway station to close will cause disruption for at least two weeks, a rail boss has said.

The incident on Saturday between Banbury and Leamington Spa halted all services between the stations and left around 350,000 tonnes of earth dangerously close to the railway track.

It comes just 11 months after commuters faced similar disruption after a landslide on the same stretch of track.

Network Rail chief executive Mark Carne said: "This is a massive incident and I am making sure we have all the resources we need to tackle this problem. Our safety precautions ensured the railway was shut before there was any risk to passengers. Looking forward, our focus is on making sure the site is safe before our engineers move any of the affected earthworks."

Remote sensing techniques were being used to monitor the landslide and work was due to begin to clear the debris as soon as it is safe to do so.

Mr Carne added: "This is a very deep cutting built back in Brunel's days which we have been repairing for some time. I can assure passengers whose journeys are being disrupted that we will do our utmost to restore their services as soon as possible. However, it may take several weeks to stabilise it before we can start some services."

Commuters were left stranded outside Banbury station for two hours and had to wait for replacement bus services after the incident happened at about 3pm on Saturday.

National Rail said it was unsafe for trains to travel between Banbury and Leamington Spa after a risk of further ground movement. It added the line would remain closed while engineers monitored the site and investigated the scale of the problem.

National Rail spokeswoman Sam Kelly said: "This is a known problem area experiencing elevated levels of ground water and engineers continue to work with local landowners to try to rectify and control the situation safely."



The landslide between Leamington Spa and Banbury that has affected train lines

Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon said the town's economy could suffer if the trains were not running.

He added: "A lot of people commute in and out of Banbury for work and I would hope that they will use all means possible to speed up the work that they need to do to get these lines open."

"Following on from the recent incident, I would hope that the rail operators will look at the remedial work to make sure that this stretch of line is not affected again."

Replacement bus services between Banbury and Leamington Spa could extend journey times by up to one hour.

Banbury and District Chamber of Commerce chairman Richard Hunter said: "Adding an hour or so to people's journey times would cause big delays to people going to work and could possibly disrupt people's days."

"It is something that could be reviewed."

"It will be interesting to see what effect it has on the costs to local

business and costs to the local economy," Alex Blok was on a train when the incident happened. The 51-year-old said: "There was a lack of compassion, coffee and communication. No one knew what was going on."

Chiltern Railways tickets were being accepted on CrossCountry, First Great Western, London Midland, London Underground and Virgin Trains. CrossCountry passengers were allowed to travel with Chiltern Railways, First Great Western, South West Trains and Virgin Trains.



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Cancer fighter given the chance to cook with star

Brave teen granted wish as idol invites him back to the kitchen later this spring

Michael Race
Michael.Race@nqo.com

A BOY with leukaemia got his wish of a lifetime to cook with one of his heroes.

Banbury's Jake Moon, 15, was granted a wish by the Starlight Children's Foundation to cook with his favourite chef Raymond Blanc.

The teenager was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in July 2013.

His illness forced him to take a break from his hobby, but after chemotherapy and hospital visits, Jake's dream of cooking with his idol came true.

Jake's wish was granted after nurses at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital heard of his admiration for M Blanc and contacted Starlight.

Jake and his family arrived at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, in Great Milton, South Oxfordshire to enjoy an afternoon with the chef.

Jake said: "It was amazing to meet one of my heroes in life."

"I always liked watching my mum and dad cooking then started watching cooking on the TV and knew that's what I wanted to do."

"Now I know how hard I have to work to achieve my goal."

The family were greeted by the chef who gave Jake a masterclass along with two sets of chef whites and signed cookery books.

But the icing on the cake was when M Blanc asked Jake to return to his restaurant to cook with him on his 16th birthday, May 13.

Dad Wayne said: "To see the look on Jake's face when M Blanc walked in the room will be something I will never forget, to be fair I did tear up because it meant so much to him."

"As a family we have always tackled things head on, like me and my mum having cancer twice each since 2011 and my mum passing away from the second one five weeks before we found out Jake had leukaemia."

"I know he was strong, but this has shocked me how on how strong he is. I'm so proud Jake is my son."

M Blanc said: "Starlight is a wonderful charity and it was of course an absolute joy."

"I am passionate about teaching young minds and had a wonderful time with Jake."

Jake has recently secured a place at catering college.



Fifteen-year-old Jake Moon gets a masterclass with Raymond Blanc

Boundary move brings concerns

A BID to change ward boundaries could see a "loss of local identity", councillors have warned.

Cherwell District Council members raised concerns at a meeting to discuss Local Government Boundary Commission for England proposals.

It has put forward the plans to reduce wards from 28 to 16, with three councillors in each ward, so each ward has a more similar number of voters.

The total number of councillors would also be reduced from 50 to 48 at the Conservative-controlled authority.

This would mean that by 2020 each ward would have 7,740 electors, a ratio of one councillor to every 2,580 voters.

Councillors suggested at a recent meeting that some boundaries should be moved to prevent "electoral confusion" and "a loss of local identity".

Cherwell District Council leader Barry Wood said: "The boundary commission conducts these reviews to create equality."

"As it stands, some members represent significantly more residents than others and so by revising the boundaries they aim to even things out."

He added: "While we understand the reasons for this review, it is important to members that this does not come at the expense of communities."

Bicester would get one more councillor and have wards cut from five to four, giving 12 total councillors.

Kidlington would stay at two wards with six instead of five councillors, which councillors suggested would make it difficult for elected members to accurately represent their communities.

The council will now put together an official response to the LGBCE, to be published next month. The changes will take effect at elections in May 2016.

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Celebrity guest gives a helping hand for charity

Well-known reality TV star 'White Dee' lends support for couple's fundraiser day

Alex Wynick
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A COUPLE raised £13,000 in memory of their son with the help of celebrity guest White Dee.

Gemma and Luke Froude held the charity day on what would have been their son Finnley's birthday on Saturday.

The child died in 2010 when he was just 18 weeks old after being born 12 weeks premature on January 29.

Mr and Mrs Froude, 34 and 33, now mark his birthday every January by raising money for Support for the Sick, Newborn and their Parents (SSNAP), the charity that supports the special care baby unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

Finnley's Day, at Banbury Town Hall, had a prize draw, raffle, tombola, bouncy castle, stalls, face-painting and celebrity guest in the form of Dee Kelly, or "White Dee" from Channel 4 show *Benefits Street*.

Mum-of-two Miss Kelly brought

her eight-year-old son Gerard to the event.

The Birmingham resident heard about the day after Mrs Froude contacted her on Twitter.

The 43-year-old said: "It's humbling for them to even take time out of their day to message me.

"It's a privilege to be asked to come. I've never lost a child, I'm really blessed with my two kids, but there can't be anything worse than losing a child, can there?"

"Gemma and Luke are two really strong characters and I've loved coming here."

Mrs Froude, a nursery manager, said: "It's something positive to do in Finnley's memory."

"This will help pay for equipment, nurses' training and family support for other families."

Caz Stokes, parent help team leader for SSNAP, said: "It's a truly amazing fundraising opportunity. Gemma and Luke are inspirational."

Finnley's older cousin is 10-year-old Will Cooper-Harris, who enjoyed the day's games and events.

He said: "I love raising money for Finnley's Day, because it's important."

Six-year-old Charlie McCarthy agreed. He said: "I loved having my face painted like Spiderman because he's my favourite superhero."



Dee Kelly, from Channel 4's *Benefits Street* with Luke and Gemma Froude

Sexual assault

BANBURY: A WOMAN was sexually assaulted in the Bankside area of Banbury on Sunday.

Police said a man attacked her while walking along the Bankside, near Newbold Close, at about 3.30am.

He approached her from behind, pulled her to the ground and tried to remove her clothing, police said.

The victim, who is in her thirties, fought and struggled and the attacker ran away.

Det Insp John Turner said: "As part of our investigation we have carried out a forensic examination at the scene of the incident and have also conducted house-to-house inquiries in the Bankside area."



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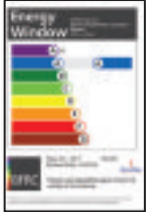
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Don't forget to join the electoral register

PEOPLE have been reminded that registering to pay council tax does not automatically put them on the electoral roll.

Cherwell District Council issued the reminder with the general election in May now fewer than 100 days away.

The final day for voter registration is April 20.

It is not a legal requirement to register to vote but it is a legal requirement to submit details for the register and a failure to do so can result in a £1,000 fine.

Electoral registration officer Sue Smith said: "The electoral register is about more than providing people with a right to vote.

"It is used for jury service selection and to perform credit checks for things such as mortgage, mobile phone and credit card applications and if details are not up to date, it could affect people's credit ratings."

To register visit gov.uk/register tovote



Electoral officer Sue Smith

Space Studio hosts an observatory workshop

Teachers and budding astronomers get hands on at a space workshop

Naomi Herring
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TEACHERS and keen astronomers gathered to take part in a School Observatory Workshop.

The event at Banbury's Space Studio aimed to encourage astronomy in school, and give a boost to teachers and technicians considering getting an astronomical observatory in their schools.

The Ruskin Road Space Studio, the first of its kind in the UK, hosted the free National Schools' Observatory workshop.

And for enthusiasts from travelled from across the country to be there.

Physics teacher at the Studio, Hayley Flood said: "It is excellent having the National Schools' Observatory run their workshop from the Space Studio, the aim was to involve more schools and students in the field of astronomy.

"The workshop was done in two parts.

"The first part of the workshop was about how to use robotic telescopes and the second was about how to set up an observatory in schools for the teachers. We had lots and lots of interest in the event and had over 20 people sign up."

The group got to grips with the robotic telescopes as people were taken through image-processing of astronomical data.

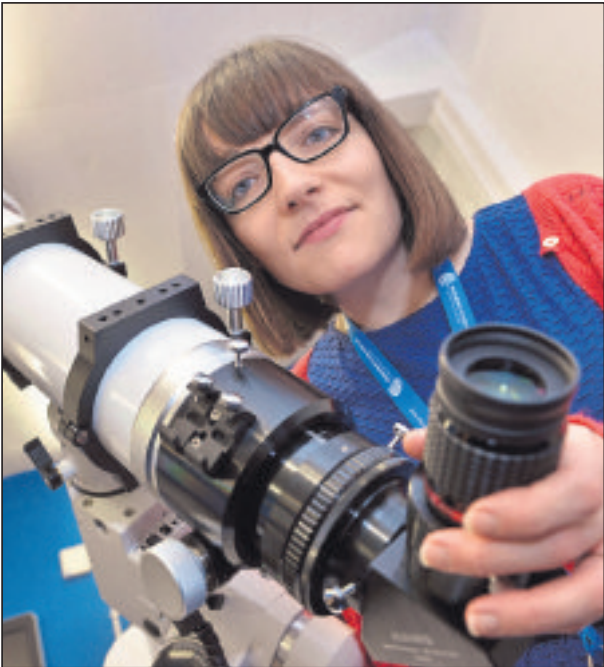
They then got hands-on with the equipment themselves to hunt for asteroids.

The evening session focused on building a school observatory and teachers were given a beginners' guide to the school's telescope, an image processing demonstration and student project ideas.

The group were also given the chance to observe the night sky.

The Space Studio opened in September 2014 and has around 300 students between the ages of 14 and 18.

The school is for pupils with a passionate interest in science, maths, technology and space, plus those who are considering a career in space-related industries.



Hayley Flood, with a Starwave 110 refractor telescope

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Jackie Beaumont, of the Oxfordshire Oesophageal and Stomach Organisation

Cancer survivor backs campaign

Former patient supports NHS campaign to spot the warning signs of stomach cancers

Oliver Evans
oevans@nqo.com

IN July 2007 Jackie Beaumont ate half a banana, her first solid food in two months as chemotherapy began to give her back the life oesophageal cancer had taken from her.

Now the 59-year-old is backing an NHS campaign that urges people to spot the early signs of oesophageal and stomach cancers.

Mrs Beaumont, of Aynho, said a GP had advised her to take Gaviscon when she complained of difficulty swallowing in January 2007.

As her problems worsened, she went for endoscopy – where a camera is placed down the throat – five months later, which found a tumour at the top of her oesophagus in the gullet.

A course of chemotherapy and oesophagectomy in September to remove the tu-

mour and gullet followed and she was given an all-clear in July 2012.

Public Health England has now launched an awareness campaign, urging those with regular heartburn to see a GP.

About 67 per cent diagnosed early survive five years, it said, but this drops to three per cent of those diagnosed too late.

She said: "It is key from the public's point of view that they make an appointment."

"From the GP's point of view, they need to be aware that symptoms might present as normal but in actual fact can be sinister."

"It was if the food would get as far as my neck bone and wouldn't go down."

"At that point in my life I had no idea what the possible outcome of the diagnosis would be."

"This is why it is so important to get the public to understand the significance of these issues."

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Swimming gala glories

THE main pool at Spiceball Leisure Centre was closed on Saturday for a swimming gala. Members of Banbury Swimming Club competed against six other teams from

the Chiltern League. Cherwell Council's George Reynolds said they were delighted to support the sporting accomplishments of young people.

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Health bus offers tips on fitness to people over 50 around county

OXFORDSHIRE'S Health Bus is touring the county offering fitness tips to the over 50s.

The NHS-funded bus offers a free fitness MoT and a practical health check to test flexibility, strength, balance and aerobic fitness.

Age UK, which is running the programme, says these are the essential skills for retaining independence into old age.

People who sign up to the charity's Generation Games programme can also get a free gentle exercise DVD and find out about local exercise classes.

Staying active can reduce the risk of diabetes by 30 per cent and reduce the risk of breast cancer by 24 per cent in old age.

It can also help people feel happier, healthier and more energized.

Age UK also says that exercise often provides the "perfect opportunity" for older people to socialise which can help combat social isolation.

The effects of isolation can be as damaging to health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, the charity says.

The bus has already visited Faringdon, Carterton and Oxford this month. The next stop for the Health Bus will be Thame Upper High Street next Monday from 11am to 1pm.

New research disproves existing snake theories

Fossils found in Oxfordshire have raised questions over current evolutionary theories

Pete Hughes
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SNAKE fossils which have been unearthed in Oxfordshire have forced scientists to re-write their evolutionary history story.

The fossils which were dug up in Kirtlington, show that snakes learned how to slither 167 million years ago, 70 million years earlier than previously thought.

Until recently, it was thought that the snake's head had evolved after its elongated body had already formed but that theory was based on evidence which suddenly appeared in the fossil record 100 million years ago.

The new fossils point to a much older origin for snakes and suggest that the classic snake head pre-dated a legless body.

Of the four newly-discovered snakes, two were from the UK and the oldest, *Eophis underwoodi*, was found near Kirtlington.

Lead scientist professor Michael Caldwell, from the University of

Alberta, Canada, said: "The study explores the idea that evolution within the group called 'snakes' is much more complex than was previously thought.

"Importantly, there is now a significant knowledge gap to be bridged by future research as no snake fossils are known from between 140 to 100 million years ago."

The research, which is published in the journal *Nature Communications*, overturns the idea that snakes appeared suddenly and then spread around the world around 100 million years ago.

It instead suggests that from 167 million to 100 million years ago, snakes were expanding globally and evolving towards their well-known body plan.

The ancient snakes occupied many different habitats, including swamps, ponds, rivers and coastal systems.

Prof Caldwell added: "Based on the new evidence and through comparison to living legless lizards which are not snakes, the journal explores the novel idea that the evolution of the characteristic snake skull and some of its other body parts appeared long before snakes lost their legs."



An illustration of the Upper Jurassic snake, *Diabrophis gilmorei*



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MP is ‘honoured’ by cathedral post

Tory minister is installed
at famous church after his
many years of ‘good work’

Alex Wynick
awynick@nqo.com

BANBURY MP Sir Tony Baldry has become the third lay canon of Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford.

Hundreds gathered to see him installed in the St Aldate’s cathedral in the Evensong service on Saturday.

He said: “It was a very moving service, especially in Christ Church.

“I’m very proud and feel very honoured.

“Being a lay canon will enable me to maintain my connections with the Diocese of Oxford and the cathedral.”

He said: “I sometimes feel that Christ Church is one of Oxford’s hidden treasures.

“Everyone should feel able to come and pray and worship here.”

The Tory minister, who is stepping down in May, is also the second church estates commissioner and chair-designate of the Church Buildings Council.



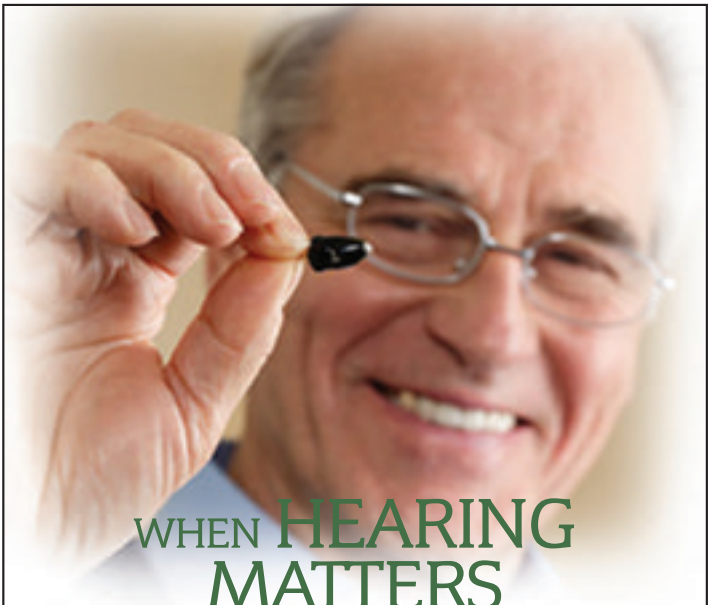
Sir Tony Baldry, who became a Lay Canon at Christ Church Cathedral

He said: “I feel I’ve done a lot of good work with the church, helping install women bishops and legalising same-sex marriage.

“There’s also a lot of other things, like stopping lead being stolen from church roofs.”

The Bishop of Dorchester the Rt Rev Colin Fletcher installed Sir Tony as well as five clergy who serve in the Oxford Diocese.

Rev Charlie Cleverly, rector of St Aldate’s; Rev Dr Simon Jones, fellow and chaplain of Merton College; Rev Andrew Marsden, vicar of St Sebastian’s, Wokingham; and Rev Geoff Maughan, vicar of Cumnor, became honorary canons. Rev Dr Martin Wellings, superintendent minister of the Oxford Methodist Circuit, was made an ecumenical canon.



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Tale of a family in real-life spy drama to be told on stage

A BANBURY amateur theatre society is set to perform a production of English playwright Hugh Whitmore's *Pack of Lies*.

The Banbury Cross Players will perform the thriller, inspired by The Portland Spy Ring – an example of using illegal residents as spies in a Soviet operation in the 1950s.

The production is the story of Bob and Barbara Jackson and teenage daughter Julie, who are good friends with the Kroger family. MI5 begins to use the Jacksons' house as a surveillance post to watch the Krogers. It becomes clear the Krogers have been keeping a secret.

The production will run from tomorrow until Saturday at The Mill Arts Centre, in Spiceball Park. Call 01295 279002 or go online at themillartscentre.co.uk for tickets.

Making the NHS better

Watchdog 'leading' drive for better health services

Oliver Evans
oevans@nqo.com

A HEALTH and social care watchdog says it is leading the way in getting NHS and council managers to improve services.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire said it had influenced 44 changes in health and social care since April last year.

The group was set up in April 2013 under a national shake-up and said it had made major strides in changing how services are run.

Chief executive Rachel Coney said: "As far as we are aware no other Healthwatch in the country has achieved this level of impact."

Its work has included giving surveys and data to Oxfordshire County Council and the NHS's Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG).

These groups make decisions on where NHS and social care cash is spent, such as in hospital authority Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Ms Coney said: "We would like to thank service commissioners and providers across the county for taking patients and service users' views seriously, and for beginning to make change based on feedback provided by Healthwatch on the public's behalf."

"I hope that being able to announce success on this scale will really give the public confidence that talking to us can make a difference."

Healthwatch's work has included pressing the council on how many people's social care home visits lasted 15 minutes, which some critics have said is not long enough.

The county council said all those who had 15 minutes were reviewed and 172 people were contacted and offered a review of their visits, to be completed by March.

Last May, Healthwatch worked with Oxfordshire Family Support Network to produce a report saying there must be closer



Healthwatch Oxfordshire chief executive Rachel Coney

working with people with learning disabilities.

The council said it was training and paying people with learning disabilities to review services as "quality monitoring assistants".

A survey of students also raised concerns they felt stigmatised for seeking help for mental health problems and alternatives to A&E should be set up to take pressure off hospitals.

The group said it was pleased OCCG had put up money for an

"SOS" bus to treat minor injuries in Oxford city centre on Friday and Saturday from 10.30pm to 5.30am.

And it welcomed OCCG efforts to develop mental health training for Asian women after Healthwatch work, including focus group, found this was an issue.

The group said its work with Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust had led to initiatives such as training to schools staff on mental health.

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Man in hospital after attack in alleyway

BANBURY: A man is in hospital after he was cut across the face by a stranger, police said.

The 22-year-old was attacked on Tuesday last week at 5.30pm in the alleyway between Sinclair Avenue and Evenlode, in Banbury.

Police said the man bumped into his attacker. After an exchange the suspect reached into his pocket.

The victim was slapped around the face and then realised he had been cut.

Police described the attacker as mixed race, aged between 19 and 20 and about 6ft.

He was wearing a dark green hooded coat and may have been wearing a black beanie-style hat or have had dark hair. He was possibly wearing a dark blue tracksuit.

He was with another man who was Asian, about 5ft and wearing a T-shirt with a hooded top and jeans.

Diabetes meeting

OXFORD: Diabetes patients are invited to join a meeting to help shape diabetes healthcare in Oxfordshire.

Specialists will join the meeting at Northway Church, Sutton Road, Oxford, on Wednesday, February 11 from 7.30pm.

Diabetes UK has organised the session with healthcare authority Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

The charity says it wants to give 37,000 Oxfordshire residents with diabetes the opportunity to shape how their healthcare is provided.

For more information contact Diabetes UK volunteer development officer Emily Bari on 01372 720148 or email south.east@diabetes.org.uk

Website cash offer

OXON: Sole traders and small businesses can claim £150 towards the cost of launching or improving their websites.

Get Online, Trade Online (GO-TO) is designed to encourage more online trading, through funding for building a website, taking online payment, online marketing and using social media to engage with customers.

To claim back the cash firms must spend at least £350. The scheme, run by Buckinghamshire Business First on behalf of Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, closes on March 20.

OxLEP chief executive Nigel Tipple said: "The idea is to help firms trade online and to be able to use technology to grow their business."

To apply, visit www.oxfordshirebusinesssupport.co.uk

Police seek woman

BANBURY: Police want to speak to a woman after dog biscuits and cider were stolen from a shop in Banbury.

Police said the Martin's store in Orchard Way was targeted at 6.15pm on December 18.

Officers described the woman as white, with dyed blonde shoulder-length hair. She was wearing a woollen cardigan and carrying a black bag with a white strap over her shoulder.

Cull option called for

OXON: Farmers in Oxfordshire should have the option to call for a badger cull in the county, the National Farmers' Union has said.

At present 58 cow herds in Oxfordshire are under restrictions after animals tested positive for bovine tuberculosis spread by badgers, it said.

Adviser James Osman said: "We would like to see the policy rolled out to other areas. Whether it happens in Oxfordshire is up to the farmers, but we want to make sure they have the option."

Government-backed pilot culls were run in West Somerset and West Gloucestershire in 2013.

'PLAYING GOD'

Trial could mean more loss of life

Alex Regan
aregan@nqo.com

AMBULANCE authorities have been accused of putting lives at risk by taking part in a trial which gives heart attack victims a placebo instead of adrenaline.

The study by five ambulance trusts including South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS), called PARAMEDIC-2, will eventually be rolled out to every ambulance in the county.

Current guidelines recommend routinely giving adrenaline during the resuscitation of patients who have suffered cardiac arrest.

However researchers say a clinical trial has never been done and believe it could cause more deaths than it saves.

Chairman of Oxford health group Patient Voice Jacquie Pearce-Gervis, said: "What they are doing is basically playing God by enrolling people into this trial."

Some concerns have been raised about the trial, in which patients may be given salt solution instead,

because patients will not be able to consent to take part, only opt out of it.

But the ambulance service said the ethics had been approved, based on European law, and that funding had been given by the National Institute for Health Research (NICE).

The trial has been designed to test this belief but local GP Dr Prit Buttar said it could lead to deaths that might have been prevented.

He said: "If a small number of people survived after being given adrenaline, and fewer survived when given the placebo, you could argue that several people who had died may have not died if they were given adrenaline."

"If you asked members of the public whether they wanted adrenaline or whether they wanted salt water after suffering a cardiac arrest, I'm sure most would say adrenaline."

"You could be causing preventable deaths with this trial."

Eventually every ambulance in Oxfordshire will take part in the trial, which is managed by the University of Warwick and taking place at four other ambulance trusts.

SCAS refused to comment on whether patients' lives could be put at risk in the drug trial, which will run until August 2018.



The chairman of health group Patient Voice Jacquie Pearce-Gervis

Libraries to join dementia book therapy scheme

PUBLIC libraries in Oxfordshire have joined a national scheme to help people suffering from dementia.

The Reading Well Books on Prescription scheme will be available in Oxfordshire libraries from February.

It aims to support people who are suffering from dementia using book-based therapy.

The 25 titles on the scheme's list have been recommended by health experts as well as people who have experienced dementia.

The list includes books offering information and advice about dementia, support with living after diagnosis and practical advice for carers.

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet member for cultural services, Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, said: "Public libraries are playing a significant role in helping to build dementia-friendly communities."

"This scheme provides quality information, advice, and support



Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

following diagnosis and early memory loss.

"It also provides practical and emotional help for carers and suggested activities to help people remain active and independent for as long as possible."

"This is a classic example of libraries being at the very centre of their communities and making a practical contribution to life that touches people who have dementia and their families."

For more information about the scheme visit oxfordshire.gov.uk/readingwell

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Big Hero 6
PG, 108 mins

NEVER underestimate the power of a hug. With one simple squish, you can provide comfort, encouragement or a simple how-do-you-do that transcends a thousand well-chosen words.

Big Hero 6 is the cinematic equivalent of a warm hug, embracing the old-fashioned family values of the Walt Disney brand alongside cutting-edge computer technology that audiences now expect to dazzle their senses.

Directors Don Hall and Chris Williams marry dizzying action sequences that look even more spectacular in 3D to an emotionally rich story of a lonely boy's unshakeable bond with his self-inflating robot protector.

The inquisitive automaton Baymax is the stuff that sweet celluloid dreams are made of: tender, loving and unwittingly hilarious.

Every child will want their own marshmallow man to snuggle at night and keep them safe from the harsh realities of modern life that weigh heavily on the film's grief-stricken adolescent hero.

"I see no evidence of physical injury," informs the robot as he scans the boy's body.

"It's a different kind of hurt," laments the teenager.

Fourteen-year-old Hiro Hamada (voiced by Ryan Potter) idolises his older brother Tadashi (Daniel Henney), who is a star pupil of Professor Robert Callaghan (James Cromwell), head of the robotics program at San Fransokyo University.

A fire on campus culminates in tragedy and shell-shocked Hiro is inconsolable until his brother's greatest creation, a personal healthcare robot called Baymax (Scott Adsit), helps the teenager to confront his loss.

As the boy discovers Baymax's functionality, he also stumbles upon a secret: the fire might not have been an accident. A greedy entrepreneur called Alistair Krei (Alan Tudyk) might have



Baymax, one of the characters in the animation, *Big Hero 6*

started the blaze.

Aided by Tadashi's loyal friends GoGo (Jamie Chung), Wasabi (Damon Wayans Jr), Honey Lemon (Genesis Rodriguez) and Fred (TJ Miller) plus an upgraded Baymax, Hiro resolves to uncover the truth about the deadly inferno.

Based on an obscure title from the Marvel Comics universe, *Big Hero 6* is a rip-roaring opening salvo in a potential new franchise.

Directors Hall and Williams orchestrate the requisite thrilling set pieces with brio, including an unconventional dash through the undulating streets of San Fransokyo that knowingly flouts traffic laws.

The animators and script never lose sight of the central relationship of Hiro and Baymax, sketching that bond in exquisitely deft strokes.

Big Hero 6 is preceded by Patrick Osborne's Oscar nominated short *Feast*, which charts the relationship between a Boston terrier and his master from puppyhood to middle age in a series of vignettes. It's a pick of the animated litter that leaves an indelible mark on the heart, just like Hall's and Williams' turbo-charged main feature.

CakeWhat's on

MUSIC

Thursday:

Leonard Wolfson Auditorium, Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford: Tudor Polyphony then and now: Reflections on a revival. In her illustrated talk, Sally Dunkley will discuss the joys and challenges of ensemble singing. Live examples by Oxford Polyphonic alongside historic recordings. Free. 6pm. 01865 274083.

SJE Arts, St John the Evangelist church, 109A Iffley Road, Oxford: Pianist Maki Sekiya plays Musorgsky, Prokofiev and Wagner. See sje-oxford.org/events/event/2015/02/05/tx_cal_phpi-calendar/maki-sekiya-sje-arts-international-piano-series.html. £15 and £10 (students £10 and £5). 9.30pm. 01865 613507.

Friday:

New Inn, Main Rd, Middleton Cheney: Nikki Petherick. Free. 9pm. 01295710399.

The Jericho Tavern, Walton Street,

Oxford: Alex Lanyon, Willie J Healey, Cameron A G. Tickets and more info on wegottickets.com/daisyroddgers. £3 adv, £5 otd. 8pm. 01865 311775.

The White House, Abingdon Road, Oxford: Oxford Folk Club presents Jez Lowe. £6. 8.30pm. 01865 768128.

Saturday:

The Pepper Pot, 6 Burchester Place, Banbury: Laurence Live. Singer, keyboard player and guitarist plays everything from Motown right through to current day. Free. 9pm.

The Friends' Meeting House, St Giles, Oxford: Oxford Classic Jazz presents the Great American Songbook – from Irving Berlin to The Gershwins and Cole Porter. With star vocalists Holly Taylor and Jake Gill. This concert is to raise money for the Quaker charity Oxford Against Poverty. £10 (£6 cons). 7.30pm. 07932 748379.

The Queen's College, Shulman Au-

ditorium, High Street, Oxford: The Eglesfield Music Society – Chamber Recital. Chamber Recital – Kapsetakis piano duo. Free with a retiring collection. 1.30pm.

Wednesday:

The Queen's College Chapel, High Street, Oxford: The Queen's College Organ Recitals. Peter Dyke (Hereford Cathedral). Free with a retiring collection. 1.10pm. 01865 279125.

THEATRE

Monday:

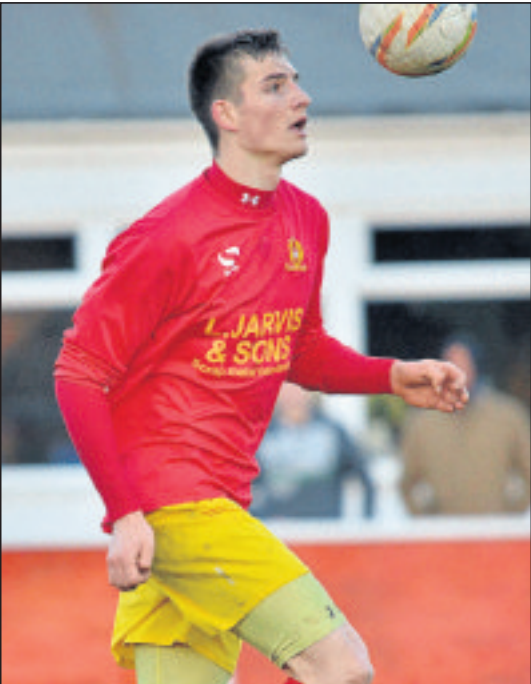
New Theatre Oxford, George Street, Oxford: Spamalot. Runs until Saturday, February 14, 7.30pm. Monty Python's Spamalot gallops back out on tour with their West End production. Joe Pasquale reprises his much-loved role of King Arthur alongside Bonnie Langford as The Lady of The Lake and Todd Carty as Patsy. £19.90 to £43.40 (plus £4 transaction fee). 0844 8713020.



Hiro and Baymax pictured in a scene from *Big Hero 6*

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport



Banbury's Tom Ryan headed a late chance wide on Saturday

Banbury are hit by late goal

Unlucky Puritans stay at bottom of table

BANBURY United's woes in the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division increased with a late 2-1 defeat at St Neots Town on Saturday.

With only three minutes left and the sides locked at 1-1, Paul Davis's side were on course for a point, only for Drew Roberts to net a late winner.

The visitors, with former Oxford United defender Rufus Brevet helping out on the coaching side, took the lead on ten minutes when a free-kick from Duran Martin fell to Guy Tahin, who fired past Paul Bastock in the home goal.

Minutes later, Banbury almost doubled the lead, only for Tahin's well-struck shot to hit the inside of a post and bounce to safety.

On 35 minutes the hosts levelled when ex-Puritan Lewis Hilliard headed in.

Just 45 seconds later, Banbury's Ben Mackey had the ball in the net, but his effort was disallowed for offside.

Although St Neots dominated the second half, Ban-

St Neots Tn	2
Banbury Utd	1

bury's rearguard snuffed out any chances that fell their way.

It looked as though the visitors had done enough, but on 87 minutes Roberts smashed in the winner from Sam Harty's cross.

Banbury almost got a point late on, but Tom Ryan headed Declan Harty's cross wide as they fell to their third defeat in a row.

On Saturday, Banbury travel to Cambridge City.

Banbury Utd: Bedwell, White, Martin, Cray, Hartigan, Ryan, Green (Walcott 68), Martin, Tahin (Lewars 76), Howards (George 56), Browne. Subs not used: Tappin, Pope.

Attendance: 319.

LATEST TABLE

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE												
Poole Tn	Premier Division					L	F	A	Pts			
	P	W	D	L	F							
	26	20	2	4	52	15	62					
Weymouth	28	19	3	6	54	34	60					
Truro City	31	19	3	9	61	44	60					
Corby Town	29	17	6	6	52	31	57					
Hungerford T	31	15	8	8	41	26	53					
Redditch Utd	29	15	6	8	55	31	51					
Cirencester Tn	31	14	9	8	59	37	51					
St Neots Tn	30	14	8	8	55	47	50					
Hitchin Tn	31	14	6	11	55	46	48					
Chesham Utd	30	12	10	8	54	41	46					
Dunstable Tn	31	13	5	13	51	46	44					
Chippenham	31	11	9	11	34	38	42					
Paulton Rov	31	11	8	12	49	48	41					
Slough Town	29	10	9	10	47	52	39					
Bideford	30	11	4	15	50	68	37					
Cambridge C	28	7	10	11	41	44	31					
Biggleswde T	28	7	9	12	39	50	30					
Histon	29	8	5	16	32	52	29					
Dorchester T	29	7	4	18	39	56	25					
Arlesey Tn	29	7	3	19	29	59	24					
Frome Tn	28	6	5	17	33	61	23					
*Burnham	30	5	7	18	30	52	19					
Banbury Utd	29	4	7	18	30	64	19					
Hereford Utd record expunged												

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Cash flow could cause problems over the coming seven days, which is sure to see you under more stress than you would like. Don't rule out asking for help from people you've already talked to. Much has changed since last month thanks to the helpful hand of Saturn. Lies in work will come back on you so don't even think about telling them. Call to hear why your career is so lucrative now.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

If you're not careful then family differences could end up getting out of control due to third parties who seem to think it's their right to get involved and to speak on your behalf. Older faces need more of your time, for reasons which will become apparent by Tuesday. A good week to sort out any debts and to find compromises in business and contractual matters. Ring now for more insight.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

You're really digging your heels in at the moment, which is making it hard for your close ones to get any sort of sensible answers from you. Don't let pride stop you from admitting what and who you really want. This could be your last chance to lay your heart on the line after last month's dramatics my friend, so think before you act. Ring to hear how Mars reveals a liar in the family.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

It's all too easy for you to say the first thing that comes into your mind, but it won't be so easy to clear up the mess which can be caused by such actions. Try to think how others will feel about your words before you act. A new face is sure to catch your attention and stir your heart. Ring this is the week in which many of your sign fall hard and fast. Ring me for clarity.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Events from over the New Year come into play and you start to find out what did or didn't really happen. News from family gives you reason to get excited about an upcoming event which gives you the chance to mix with close ones you care for. Mercury hands you the power to work miracles in business on Friday, so plan around this date. Ring now to hear why you're more psychic in February.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

You're discovering so many new sides to your character, both strengths and weaknesses, and I think you'll feel altogether more able to control your life and the decisions you make in it. Careful what you promise on Friday when you're liable to make several arrangements instead of one. Certain friends are growing tired of your recent unreliability. Ring now to hear how you can nip it in the bud.

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

I know you're not feeling as confident as you would like, but if you stopped for a moment and looked at the person who has been ruling your emotions lately, then you'd see that you're far stronger and cleverer than they are. Time to take control. Starting from Tuesday you see what needs to be done to show you can't be walked over. Ring now to hear how education beckons this month.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

This is a really important week for relationships. You're able to see and feel clearly what you do and do not want. No longer will you be accepting second best, but you want to live a life that makes you happy. Pay attention to the written word, it's worth your while paying for a second opinion or even a legal one. Ring now to hear why it's worth dressing in your best this weekend.

0906 585 4369

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

You speak without thinking over the coming days which could see you letting all sorts of secrets out of the bag. Not everything is as it seems in relationships, so be careful of accusing your close ones of things they may not have done. A great week for single Leos to go on dates or meet compatible partners. Ring now to hear which sign would be your match made in heaven.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

It's time to cut ties with the past issues which have been holding you back. You're stronger than you think and only you can allow what happened to interfere with your current plans and happiness. Talking things through on Tuesday and Thursday draws a line in the sand. Don't be late on Monday. Your professional reputation demands you're punctual. Ring now to talk about love.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

This week is all about you investing your time and belief in your close ones and their dreams. Oh, there will be time for you as well, but making your loved ones a priority can prove to them how serious you are about your feelings for them. Buy a back up gift, you're going to need it before this week is over for an event you'll want to attend. Ring now to hear how Saturn can heal family rifts.

0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Your personal life in recent weeks has been, in a word, messy. You've been putting up defences instead of dealing with what was on your mind. You've also been using a third party instead of going directly to the source. Family commitments you made must be adhered to. Stick to plans, you'll be glad you did when you see what a positive effect it has on close ones. Ring now for answers.

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Compact city car copes with style

By David Duffy
david.duffy@nqo.com

I WAS kicking myself when I finally realised that a long-awaited fishing trip would coincide with the arrival of Citroën's diminutive C1.

On the face of it, combining 6ft-long beachcasting rod sections, an unwieldy tripod and a mass of other equipment with a cuddly, but tiny, city car was going to end in tears. I need not have worried.

Despite its ultra-compact dimensions, frugal engine and built-for-the-city style, the little car coped admirably with a mass of luggage on a 200-mile plus round trip to the coast.

With two people on board and the rear seat backs folded flat, the C1 performed cheerfully while out of its comfort zone.

Comfort is high on the list of priorities for the latest generation of the nippy, zippy city car that has sold more than 780,000 examples worldwide since its launch nine years ago.

Priced from £8,245 to £11,935, the new C1 which is nimbler and better handling than its predecessor, is available in both three and five-door hatchback versions and, the model tested here

as a new open-top body style, called Aircscape.

The large canvas soft-top runs practically the entire length of the roof, is fully opening and electrically controlled as standard and a deflector deploys when the roof is opened to limit in-cabin turbulence.

Power comes from a choice of petrol engines, all of which emit less than 100g/km of carbon dioxide which exempts all models from paying vehicle excise duty.

With the VTi 68 engine with Stop & Start technology mated to a five-speed manual gearbox, it has the potential of covering 74.3mpg on the combined cycle.

The VTi 68 engine without Stop & Start can be fitted with either



The Citroën C1 Aircscape Flair PureTech 82 is more advanced

Auto facts: Citroën C1 Aircscape Flair PureTech 82

Price: £11,785

Insurance group: 11E (1-50)

Fuel consumption (combined): 65.7mpg

Top speed: 106mph

Length: 346.5cm/136.4in

Width: 161.5cm/53.5in

Luggage capacity: 6.9 cu ft

Fuel tank capacity: 7.7 gal-lons/35 litres

Warranty: Three years/ 60,000 miles

a manual five-speed gearbox or an automated manual five-speed gearbox.

The test car came with the new 1.2-litre, three-cylinder, 82 horsepower engine which claims day-to-day fuel economy of 65.7mpg.

Technology has moved on a pace inside the car and the dashboard is dominated by a seven-inch touchscreen that groups together radio, telephone and on-board computer.

Keyless entry and start, and a reversing camera are available and hill start assist is standard specification.

In brief

■ **LATEST** customer satisfaction surveys for Mitsubishi Motors show Firs Garage in Hook Norton is one of 10 dealers in the country to receive the maximum five-star rating from their customers. The statistics show 93 per cent of Mitsubishi dealers in the UK are rated four-star and above by their customers and 87 per cent of Mitsubishi customers say they would recommend their dealership. Dean Wood, dealer principal at Firs Garage, said: "The rating is based purely on customer feedback so it's great to know our hard work is appreciated by the people who really matter."

■ **SKODA UK** topped the automotive table in the latest UK Customer Satisfaction Index Summary (UKCSI) produced by the Institute of Customer Service. The car maker was in the top 10 per cent of all organisations across all industry sectors. Overall this placed Skoda 18th of all the 197 organisations which featured in the UKCSI's findings, among other major consumer brands such as John Lewis, Marks & Spencer and Amazon.

Familydrivingsurvey

Women tackling brunt of school run

NEW research shows women bear the brunt of giving lifts and tackling the school run.

The stats, from Halfords, show women have access to the family car 57 per cent of the time, versus 43 per cent for men.

Women are also doing the majority of short day-to-day journeys with the children, such as taking them to school, dropping them off at after-school activities, and giving lifts to friend's houses.

A third of women and 17 per cent of men take at least one journey with their child or children every day.

The research revealed that over half of women drive to visit friends

and family. Sixty seven per cent of women use the family car for the weekly shop, while men do the lion's share of driving while on holiday.

Women now take equal responsibility for ensuring the family car is checked over for winter, topping-up the oil when it is low and are more likely to know whether all of the lights on their car are working correctly.

Emma Fox, Halfords' commercial director, said: "We can gain a huge insight into family life and how we're spending our time by looking at who's behind the wheel of the family car and what journeys are being undertaken.

"It's no surprise that the vast majority of cars these days are maintained by both men and women, as women are taking an ever increasing interest in their cars."

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GARETH MALONE and his CHOIR VOICES 2015



Join the nations favourite choirmaster and his choir voices for
a memorable evening!!

New Theatre, Oxford Friday 27th November 2015

Only £59.50

MAMMA MIA



The story-telling magic of
ABBA's timeless songs propels
this enchanting tale of love,
laughter and friendship, and
every night everyone's having
the time of their lives!
Thursday 7th May 2015
Novello Theatre

£59.50

WAR HORSE



War Horse is an unforgettable
theatrical event which takes
audiences on an extraordinary
journey from the fields of rural
Devon to the trenches of First
World War France.
Thursday 7th May 2015
New London Theatre

£59.50

BEAUTIFUL THE CAROL KING Musical



BEAUTIFUL is the untold story of
Carole King's journey from school
girl to superstar; from her
relationship with husband and song-
writing partner Gerry Goffin, their
close friendship and playful rivalry
with fellow song-writing duo Barry
Mann and Cynthia Weil, to her
remarkable rise to stardom.
Thursday 7th May 2015

Aldwych Theatre **£64.50**

LET IT BE (OVER 40 BEATLES HITS)



Relive The Beatles' meteoric rise from their humble
beginnings in Liverpool's Cavern Club, through the heights of
Beatlemania, to their later studio masterpieces, with live
performances of early tracks including Twist and Shout, She
Loves You and Drive My Car, as well as global mega-hits
Yesterday, Hey Jude, Come Together and, of course, Let it
Be. Travel back to the magical Sixties when all you needed
was love, and a little help from your friends!

Thursday 14th May 2015

Garrick Theatre **£59.50**

SUNNY AFTERNOON (Based on the Music of The Kinks)



This 'exhilarating, hugely enjoyable new
musical' (Financial Times) features many of the
bands hits, including: YOU REALLY GOT ME,
WATERLOO SUNSET, DEDICATED FOLLOWER
OF FASHION, ALL DAY AND ALL OF THE NIGHT,
LOLA, SUNNY AFTERNOON and many more.

Thursday 14th May 2015

Harold Pinter Theatre **£64.50**

LORD OF THE DANCE



Dangerous Games
With all the visceral precision
and thrills of the original, Lord
of the Dance. Dangerous
Games features new staging,
new costumes and
choreography.

Dominion Theatre
Thursday 16th
April 2015

£49.50

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA



@ Her Majesty's Theatre
Andrew Lloyd Webber's
mesmerising and
unforgettable score, the jaw-
dropping scenery and
breath-taking special effects, all
of which magically bring to life
the legendary love story.

Wednesday 18th

March 2015 £64.50

MISS SAIGON



@ Prince Edward Theatre
This epic musical love story
tells the tragic tale of young
bar girl Kim, orphaned by war,
who falls in love with an
American GI called Chris - but
their lives are torn apart by the
fall of Saigon.

Wednesday 18th

March 2015

£69.50

LES MISERABLES



@ Queens Theatre
Set against the backdrop of
19th-century France, Les
Misérables tells an enthralling
story of broken dreams and
unrequited love, passion,
sacrifice and redemption - a
timeless testament to the
survival of the human spirit.

Wednesday 18th

March 2015 £64.50

LADIES DAY ROYAL ASCOT



Although the whole week at Royal Ascot is a fashion show like no other, it is Thursday when the designer creations
and millinery masterpieces reach the greatest heights
Thursday's highlight and feature race is the Group 1 Gold Cup, a battle of stamina and determination over two miles
and four furlongs.
Don't forget your HAT!

Thursday 18th June 2015

Silver Ring £59.50 Grandstand £97.50

Early Bird Special £10 Deposit per person Secures Place!



Fantastic Shows at The New Theatre, Oxford!

DIVERSITY UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL



Currently wowing audiences this winter with their astounding *Limitless: The Reboot* arena tour, Diversity have travelled the
length of the country performing for their legion of devoted fans, and delivering exceptional entertainment with some stand out
reviews. Normally incorporating several genres of music from classical to hip-hop, their diverse eye-catching routines won the
hearts of the nation. So far they've performed live to over 1 million people across the world.

Wednesday 25th November 2015 - Only £54.50

ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS



**Lee Memphis King Europe's Most
Successful Elvis Presley Tribute
Artist**

Friday 20th March 2015

Only £42.50

JERSEY BOYS



Jersey Boys tells the true life story of four
boys from the wrong side of the tracks who
wrote their own songs, invented their own
unique sound, and sold 175 million records
worldwide.

Tuesday 12th May 2015

£54.50

MICHAEL BALL



Michael Ball has won critical and public
acclaim over the last 25 years with his
dynamic, award-winning lead roles in the
West End and on Broadway. And, with his
concurrent career as a multi-platinum
recording artist, top selling live concert
performer

Wednesday 8th April 2015

£59.50

THE BODYGUARD



Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard,
Frank Farmer, is hired to protect superstar
Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each
expects to be in charge - what they don't expect
is to fall in love.

Tuesday 10th November 2015

£57.50

THE JUDY GARLAND STORY



The Life & Music of a Legend
We experience Judy's timeless classic songs
performed by award winning singers and
dancers!! Special guest Lorna Loft Judy Garland's
Daughter!!!

Thursday 23rd July 2015

£46.50

CALAMITY JANE



A classical musical starring Jody
Prenger (Oliver!) alongside Tom
Lister (Emmerdale)

Tuesday 9th June 2015

Only £49.50



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